

MINUTES OF THE
MARICOPA ASSOCIATION OF GOVERNMENTS
HUMAN SERVICES COORDINATING COMMITTEE MEETING

May 21, 1998
MAG Offices
Phoenix, Arizona

MEMBERS ATTENDING

Matt Orlando, City of Chandler, Chair	Manuel Martinez, City of Glendale
William Arnold, City of Goodyear	*Frances C. Osuna, Town of Guadalupe
Laura E Arnold, City of Tolleson	Ruth Osuna, DES
*Xavier Brizar, Community Forum	*Rev Fran Park, Northwest Valley Community Council
*Dennis Cahill, City of Tempe	Robert Pettycrew, City of Scottsdale
*Rebekah Coty, City of Peoria	Sandra J Reagan, City of Litchfield Park
*Mike Evans, Town of Gilbert	*Joan Shafer, City of Surprise
Ron Gonshak, Glendale Community Council	*Mary Rose Wilcox, Maricopa County
*Al Hyde, Area Agency on Aging	Cody Williams, City of Phoenix
*Dennis Kavanaugh, City of Mesa	
Maureen Mageau-Decindis, Tempe Community Council	

*Those members neither present nor represented by proxy.

OTHERS PRESENT

Carol Kratz, MAG

1. Call to Order

Councilmember Matt Orlando of Chandler called the meeting to order. Members introduced themselves. Chairman Orlando expressed some concern with the issue of quorum, and mentioned that several members indicated they were attending and did not. This complicates determining whether there is a quorum in time to notify other members. Members decided that a lunch meeting may be more convenient. Future HSCC meetings will be held at noon with lunch provided.

The Chairman and members congratulated Councilmember Pettycrew on his election. Chairman Orlando informed members that Moyne Jamison, formerly the Area Agency on Aging appointee, had been in a serious car accident and that Councilmember Dennis Kavanaugh had been in the hospital. Cards were circulated. The items on the agenda were taken out of order; they are presented as discussed.

2. Domestic Violence Regional Plan

The City of Phoenix requested that MAG develop a regional domestic violence plan. This request was discussed at a special meeting of the Coordinating and Technical Committees and the request was forwarded to the MAG Regional Council for approval. In the meantime, members discussed the direction and activities they would like the planning process to take. Councilmember Williams commented that he would like the committee to examine any needed legislation in time to present the requests for inclusion in the League of Cities' Resolutions Committee which meets in August. He cited as an example the seeming disorganization of response across the valley relating to consequences to a single abuser for abuse of separate victims in three different cities in the Valley.

Councilmember Williams suggested the following priorities:

- a. Identification of needed legislation for the League Resolutions' Committee by September 1;
- b. Assemble planning directors of the region's cities together to determine whether there are any code modifications which could be made related to domestic violence shelters - for example, the required number of parking spaces, or waivers on fees and expedited plan approvals for shelters adding capacity;
- c. Draft recommendations by fall which can be shared with the City of Phoenix Domestic Violence Task Force.

Councilmember Pettycrew stated that cities would need recommendations for their CDBG processes by late fall in time for public hearings in January or February. There may be leftover funding from the previous cycle. In response to a committee member questions, Councilmember Williams stated that the Phoenix \$1 million challenge grant can be used by shelters across the Valley. Councilmember Pettycrew supported regional cooperation to generate the matching funds for the \$1 million. Councilmember Orlando requested that Councilmember Cody Williams of Phoenix assume chairmanship of the domestic violence committee.

Coordinating Committee members volunteered to serve on the Committee: Councilmember Matt Orlando of Chandler, Councilmember Cody Williams of Phoenix, Councilmember Laura Arnold of Tolleson and Mayor Bill Arnold of Goodyear.

Councilmember Orlando turned over the chairmanship of the meeting to Councilmember Pettycrew due to a previous travel commitment.

4. Planning for Potential Reductions in SSBG Funds

There is a potential 20% cut in Social Services Block Grant funds proposed by the U.S. Senate and the Administration. These funds are being used to increase the transportation funding. DES has informed us that we could take a \$596,593 cut in contracts beginning July 1, 1998. This item was discussed at length at the Technical Committee which advised waiting until more information was known about federal funding levels before identifying

where cuts should occur. There is a significant amount of pressure being put on the U. S. House of Representatives to overturn this cut. Many HSCC member cities sent letters to their congressional representatives urging them to maintain the funding level. The cities of Phoenix, Scottsdale, Tolleson and Maricopa County sent letters. From information given by a national lobbyist for the Community Services Block Grant, the congressional committees do not know what SSBG funds are used for, and therefore did not feel that a cut in these funds would be harmful.

5. Legislative Report

Carol Kratz reported on the activities at the legislative session related to welfare reform. A summary of SB1082 and HB2620 was presented. The latter bill appropriates TANF and General Fund money to increase short term crisis assistance, job training, wheels to work, micro-enterprise, child care subsidies to families up to 165% of the federal poverty line, transportation, vocational education grants, food banks, personal skills development, and counseling for non-custodial fathers. Child care assistance for those in educational programs has been extended. SB1082 further refines the privatization effort of the previous session. The Procurement Board, appointed as a result of SB1357 last session, is charged with developing the RFP for the private vendor to deliver the TANF program in 12 cities and towns. They identified a number of critical policy issues during their attempt to develop the RFP and requested that the legislature address those points before the Procurement Board proceeded with its task. Guadalupe was excluded from the pilot area. There were very few changes to the legislation. The flat grant amounts remain the same. The vendor can utilize 25% of caseload reduction savings as incentive. The pilot will operate in Maricopa County for 2 years and for 2 years in a rural site. An evaluation will be conducted by an independent evaluator at the end of the 4 years. The private pilot will proceed with or without the federal food stamp and Medicaid waiver approvals. Changes were also made in eligibility determination criteria to equalize the EMPOWER and private programs.

Several domestic violence bills also passed. SB1175 provides counseling for the first offense, and supervised probation for second offense. Third offenses will be considered a felony with 4 months of jail time and work release; the fourth offense is a felony with 8 months of jail and work release. Any domestic violence convictions can be considered for any other domestic violence crime. HB2142 addresses protective orders in terms of who qualifies, filing fees, length of validity, protection of addresses, prohibition of firearms and counseling. Model Full Faith and Credit 13-3602R regulations include validity of protective orders from other states and clarifies definitions and use. SB1278 orders fingerprinting of defendant's 10 fingers.

6. Report on Public Input Meeting Held Thursday, April 23, 1998 and Human Services Needs Information

HSCC members reviewed the material from the community input televised meeting, the e-mails and telephone comments received about the problem priorities. Carol Kratz informed members that the Maricopa County Needs Assessment Project has produced its first data from the 1996-1997 survey. Preliminary information was presented to the Technical Committee. More detailed information is needed before applying that tool to the problem statements. HSCC members agreed with the Technical Committee that we would wait until mid-June when additional information is available.

Members asked about the affordable housing information in the needs assessment. They would like to know if the information is based on market rate or subsidized affordable housing. They expressed concern with the number of people in low wage jobs who cannot afford quality housing to purchase.

7. Transportation and Welfare Reform

The new federal transportation legislation will include between \$150-200 million per year in competitive grants for transportation of low income and welfare recipients. MAG are the only metro areas in the country which have human services and transportation planning processes within the same Metropolitan Planning Organization, the specified planning entity for transportation funds. We have commissioned a consultant study to assess local capacity and recommend additional types of transportation for TANF clients. As such, we are proposing to work as a region to develop a competitive application for the federal dollars. Partners would include member agencies and the RPTA. Preliminary information from the consultant study will be available at the next meeting.

Councilmember Reagan commented that five years ago, the National League of Cities identified as priorities state highways and bridges. The Westside Mayors, under the leadership of Mayor Bill Arnold, have identified transportation as a tremendous need. Councilmember Reagan suggests getting together all appropriate groups to develop a coordinated and comprehensive application for the federal funds.

8. Call to the Public

There were no audience members who wished to address the committee.

9. Announcements

Carol Kratz informed members of the Coordinating Committee that Barbara Carpenter has left MAG and that we are interested in replacing her immediately. HSCC members signed a card which will be sent to Barbara.

The joint meeting of the Technical and Coordinating Committees will be held on June 18, 1998 at the MAG Office Building. Members felt that a noon meeting might draw more attendance. Staff will telephone members. Councilmember Pettycrew informed members that he would be unable to attend as Scottsdale has been nominated for an All-American City Award and he will be in Alabama for the award.

10. Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned at 3:00 p.m.